

SIKKIM

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE
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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND VETERINARY SERVICES
NEAR PALZOR STADIUM, PS ROAD,
EAST SIKKIM GANGTOK - 737101**

No. 780/Fish

Dated: 26.08.2021

NOTIFICATION

The Government of Sikkim is hereby pleased to declare the *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* commonly known as Chocolate or Copper Mahseer and locally named as Katley as a State fish of Sikkim.

In India, *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis* (Katley) are mostly found in Himalayas especially in North Eastern states of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Nagaland. In Sikkim, Katley are found in varied altitudes covering entire state predominately confined in Teesta and Rangit rivers and their tributaries.

Because of the morphological body colour of the fish, the name Chocolate Mahseer has been given.

Katley are freshwater benthopelagic in habitat, omnivorous feeder and potamodromous in migration within freshwater for breeding and feeding. Katley migrate upstream for breeding purpose and spawning takes place on stones and gravel. Spawning occurs from April to October with a peak in August to September. The fecundity of the fish is 3500 numbers per kg body weight. The maximum growth and length of Katley fish recorded is 11 kg and 120 cm respectively.

Katley are the most sought fish by the fishermen in the State as the fish is having high consumer demand and comparatively high market value.

In the year 1992, ICAR- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR- NBGR), Lucknow has categorized Katley fish as endangered species which later on in the year 2014, the fish was also categorized endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

**Secretary
AH & VS Department**

